

Liberal Conservative Association of
Nova Scotia

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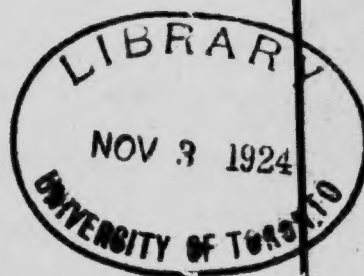
RESOLUTIONS

PASSED AT THE

Nova Scotia Liberal-Conservative Convention

HELD AT

TRURO, N. S.



JUNE 29TH AND 30TH, 1909.

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CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION, : : : 1909

RESOLUTIONS

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I

PRELIMINARY.

The policy of the Liberal-Conservative Party of Nova Scotia in provincial politics is a programme for the development of the business, revenue, population and influence of the Province; the suppression of patronage and graft, and the administration of public affairs in an energetic and business-like manner in the interests of the people at large as opposed to the present system of government for the benefit of a comparatively few.

Liberal Governments have been in charge of the affairs of this Province continuously for twenty-seven years of marvelous world development. But as a result of incompetent, wasteful and halting administration, and of systematic manipulation of public revenues for partizan purposes, and the consequent neglect of vital public interests, this splendid province has been allowed to lag behind other communities in the race for commercial and industrial supremacy.

The results of more than a quarter of a century of Liberal Government in Nova Scotia are painfully apparent; abandoned farms on every hand, population at a standstill in country districts, material loss of population, farm lands depreciated, many thousands of people forced abroad to earn a suitable living, valuable crown lands depleted, school sections without schools, others manned by poorly paid teachers, large amounts of public moneys improperly expended in maintaining an expensive and vicious patronage system, constantly diminishing grants to municipalities for roads, valuable natural water powers and coal lands alienated from public interests and a crushing burden of debt and interest saddled upon the people for all time to come.

The unpatriotic, unprogressive and wasteful record of the present Murray Government deserves the condemnation of the people of the Province.

Favored with great natural wealth in climate, soil, forest, sea, mine and geographical position, Nova Scotia should, if its government were divorced from the narrow partizan bigotry that has for

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years characterized Liberal administration, be taking a commanding position in the commercial progress of Canada; but the public interests have been relegated to second place and party aggrandisement has been given first consideration with the results that patriotic impulse has been checked, enterprise has been blighted, depopulation of the country has been persistent, and the springs of industry have been dried up.

The future welfare of the Province urgently demands thoroughly business-like and patriotic government in the place of the present botching and partizan Liberal administration; the initiation of a forward policy of constructive and progressive expansion—energetic development of the varied natural resources of the country that will enlarge the commercial operations of its people and increase its revenues—encouragement of increased and diversified and more remunerative employment—and generally, universal application of the true principle of government, namely; administration of public affairs for the common good.

Thus the Province will be released from the present debilitating partizan system, its material and social conditions will be stimulated and improved, its population will be held and increased, and population attracted; and, thus strengthened by substantial development, the Province will take its rightful position in the larger field of federal concerns, and become entitled to greater representation and exercise weightier influence in the councils of the Dominion.

II

CORRUPT PRACTICES.

This Convention heartily approves the action taken by the Provincial Executive of the Liberal - Conservative Association, in discouraging in every way the practice of corrupt methods in the conduct of elections, and the Party in Convention assembled pledges itself to the continuance of that policy.

III

FINANCES.

We condemn the Liberal Government's management of the finances of the Province as wasteful, reckless and unbusiness-like, especially in the partizan and grafting expenditures which have characterized their administration; and we pledge ourselves to the adoption of the principle of tender and contract in the construction of public works and the purchase of public supplies, and promise the introduction of thorough economy in all departments, and the adoption of progressive measures for the development of the resources and revenues of the Province.

IV

AGRICULTURE.

The farming industry of the Province during the last twenty-five years has been a constant theme for highly colored fiction that has emanated from the Government. Reams of visionary progress are recorded in the official books published by them.

Bearing in mind that successive Liberal Governments for upwards of a quarter of a century have pretended to be building up the farming industry of the Province, we denounce them for deceit and grave mismanagement in regard to this fundamental industry.

Four outstanding features which do not, however, exhaust the bill of complaints against them, may be mentioned to show why they are deserving of condemnation for their pottering and fruitless methods:—

(1) The well known decline in value of farm lands, and the everywhere present vacant farm.

(2) The dependence of the people of this Province upon Prince Edward Island and Ontario for a large percentage of the dairy produce, poultry and meat required by them; and even for milk supply.

(3) The fact that to-day buyers have to go to Ontario and Prince Edward Island for horses; and the confession of the government's principal officials that, excepting a few professional breeders, comparatively little progress has been made throughout the Province in the betterment of qualities of dairy cattle or in the production of horses.

(4) The fact that the Government are now compelled by the unfortunate conditions for which they are chiefly responsible to expend large sums of public money to induce settlers to come to Nova Scotia and enter into possession of our vacant farms; and the further fact that this policy was not the Government's initiative but had to be forced upon them by a far-seeing and patriotic opposition.

We protest that it is idle for the Government in the face of these and other conclusive evidences of neglect and mismanagement on their part, to point to an agricultural college, or an annual Provincial exhibition, as proofs of a prosperous and developing farming industry throughout the Province.

We insist that the farming industry, which must necessarily be at the fountain of provincial progress, is entitled at the hands of the Government of the Province to more systematic and widespread assistance, so that encouraging agencies will not be restricted to making the rich richer, but will be extended to the many farmers who are now kept outside the charmed circle of government beneficiaries.

We suggest that among the matters that should engage the serious attention of a government sincerely desirous of promoting

general agricultural development the following deserve consideration :—

- (1) Good stock (horses and cattle) for breeding purposes supplied for farmers' use at charges within the reach of every man;
- (2) Systematic breeding from such stock on settled lines;
- (3) Advances by way of loans upon farms for purposes of drainage;
- (4) Provision for protection of farmers against adulterated fertilizers;
- (5) Encouragement of sheep raising.

These important matters, the encouragement of fruit farming, of local exhibitions, and of agriculture in general, constitute an inviting field for a government desirous of giving practical impetus to agriculture in Nova Scotia.

V

ROADS

We charge the Liberal Government with prostituting the road service of the Province to political purposes and with consequent wholesale waste and diversion of public money, and demoralization of the road system.

We condemn the present Road Act as unsatisfactory, and pledge ourselves when returned to power to repeal such Act and substitute a measure suitable to local conditions.

VI

REPATRIATION AND INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION.

We condemn the Government for the many preventable conditions which have driven thousands of our people abroad to earn a living, and promise when returned to power to appoint a Royal Commission of experts and business men to investigate the industrial opportunities of each county, including all matters connected with the cost of fuel and power, with a view to the establishment of a variety of sound, new industries, and the extension of existing ones, in order to lay the foundation for a healthy and vigorous repatriation and immigration policy.

VII

MINES AND MINERALS.

We charge against the Liberal Government gross neglect and mismanagement of the great mining interests of this Province; and that the course of legislation instead of showing an intelligent and progressive policy has been detrimental to proper development of those interests.

While recognizing that investors and prospectors should be protected we declare that it is against public interest to permit:

- (a) unreasonable holding of large areas unworked when such areas are not required by holders for development or expansion of contiguous areas worked by them;
- (b) the locking up of unworked areas for the purpose of cutting off access to other areas;
- (c) the locking up of areas for merely speculative purposes, or to prevent fair competition.

The serious decline in gold production in Nova Scotia, and the surprising absence of development of other valuable minerals known to exist in the Province, are chargeable against a feeble and blundering government which has been too slow to lead and too weak to follow.

The great commercial value of our mineral resources, and their importance as revenue producers, should have long since stirred the Government into vigorous action for the twofold purpose of safeguarding provincial interests and procuring more effective development.

It is believed that enormous bodies of coal of the best quality have been forever lost by sheer neglect and incapacity; and that mis-directed operations, carelessness and inefficient inspection, from year to year, cause the loss of very large quantities of merchantable coal.

The government, charged as they are with the duty of safeguarding the public interests in regard to this great provincial asset, and failing to discharge that duty must be held responsible for these great losses.

We believe that there should be thorough investigation of the mines of the Province, and of all the conditions surrounding the production of coal and other minerals, and the marketing of coal; that the supervision and inspection of mines and operations therein should be made thorough and effective so that the interests of the mines as well as of the public shall be protected; that there should be exhaustive economic examination of the mining fields of the Province, and the appointment of a provincial mineralogist and establishment of a provincial assay office to assist in this important work: and that the Government should substantially promote the systematic prospecting and development of mines which would otherwise remain undeveloped.

We are in favor of a better and more representative board of examiners for the purpose of granting certificates to miners such board to consist of impartial men removed from all political influences, and we pledge the party, when returned to power, to appoint only duly qualified, practical and impartial men.

VIII

LABOR.

The Liberal Conservative Party lays down the proposition that in regard to all enterprises it is the duty of the Government to see that the interests of labor are protected from loss by insolvency of employers, or suspension of employment; that workmen engaged in lumbering should be protected by the enacting of a woodman's lien act; that miners, longshoremen, workers in factories and those engaged in building and similiar operations should be protected in cases of accidents, on the principles of the English Workmen's Compensation Act.

IX

RAILWAYS.

We denounce the entire absence of honesty and good faith in the Liberal Government respecting the Eastern Railway; when in order to gain po'itical support and votes they pledged themselves to its construction at two elections which pledges they have falsified. The Liberal Government in Nova Scotia through the fear of embarrassing their friends at Ottawa, which is found controlling their conduct in all directions, have failed to grapple with the question of the construction of railways to serve the reasonable requirements of the whole of this Province.

The Liberal Conservative party, if returned to power, will, jointly with the Federal Government or, failing just recognition by the Federal Government of the rights of this Province, itself by sufficient financial assistance, as may be warranted by the ability of the Province, procure thoroughly reliable companies or preferably as Government works, the construction of railways which the public interests require in this Province, notably the Eastern Shore Road and the Richmond and Cape Breton extension.

X

PUBLIC UTILITIES.

We condemn the system used by the Liberal Government of granting public franchises in flagrant disregard of public rights and interests and to the loss and injury of the people. The Liberal Conservative Party would bring into effective operation in Nova Scotia, to the fullest extent that Provincial finances will allow, the policy of public ownership of public utilities, and while such remain in private hands, due control in the public interest; and in particular would exercise its powers to effectually restrain and prevent unjust exactions; encourage and financially assist the extension of telephones in rural parts, and ultimately acquire the ownership and

control on behalf of the people and for the benefit of the people, of a provincial system of telephones.

Among public utilities should be reckoned all important water powers and these should be conserved for such use as may be most beneficial for the expansion of our mineral and industrial enterprises. The value of water power is fully appreciated in other Provinces and much loss has been sustained in this Province by the disregard of its importance. The question of the re-acquisition of important water powers which have been alienated by the Government either through Crown grants or by legislation should be carefully considered.

XI

FISHERIES

We sympathize most profoundly with our fisherman in regard to the menace to our shore fisheries arising from the use of steam trawlers. The Dominion Government has failed to take action in this regard and we condemn the Local Government for failure to effectually urge the protection of our fishermen and express the opinion that an international treaty should be promoted, and such other steps taken as may effectually deal with the question.

XII

SYSTEMATIC REFORESTING.

We condemn the Liberal party for the lamentable condition revealed by their admission that practically no valuable crown lands remain in the control of the people, the alienation of all valuable lands having been accomplished under successive Liberal Governments. We deplore the consequent loss of revenue, and the failure to make provision for a systematic reforestation of the timber areas of the Province.

We pledge ourselves to introduce a scientific forestry policy having due regard to the future as well as to the present.

XIII

GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES.

We condemn the Liberal Government for failure to protect the rights of the people in regard to game and inland fisheries.

We pledge ourselves to return to the policy which prevailed in our early history, of preserving to the people, sporting and fishing rights in all forests and streams throughout the wild lands in the Province.

XIV

EDUCATION

We lay it down as a guiding principle that it is a first duty of Government in regard to education to provide good common schools

that will assure to every boy and girl of the Province thorough training in the practical subjects of learning. It is notorious that at present owing to the scarcity of competent teachers there are a large number of rural school sections in which the school houses are closed and the children growing up without the advantages of a common school training; while in others in consequence of lack of thoroughness due to the over-loaded and badly planned curriculum of study, the pupils are receiving most imperfect and incomplete instruction.

Effective steps should be taken to abate and remedy these grievances by:

1. Increasing the Government grants to teachers, so as to attract more teachers to the work and ensure a greater degree of permanence in the profession.
2. Securing a fuller degree of co-operation between the Department of Education and our Provincial Colleges, so as to encourage College students and graduates to undertake the work of public school teachers.
3. Taking effective steps to provide children of school age with school books at a minimum cost.
4. Reforming the school curriculum with a view to improving and simplifying the course of study to be followed in the public schools and to adapt the same to the practical needs of the people.

XV

PUBLIC CHARITIES.

We denounce the present administration of public charitable institutions on a partisan basis, not only prostituting an important branch of the public service to political ends, but leading to gross waste of the people's money and inefficient results; and we further condemn the Government for its refusal to permit investigation in to the management of the Victoria General Hospital

We are in favor of the maintenance of a Sanitarium for tuberculosis and of extending its work by the erection of hospitals for advanced cases and the pushing of a general campaign of education against a disease responsible for more than 1000 deaths each year of the young wage earners of this Province.

XVI

TEMPERANCE

This Convention deeply deplores the evils of intemperance and recognizes that the only question is as to the most practical means of remedying intemperance and securing permanent reform.

And appreciating the position quoted from the constitution of the Temperance Alliance in its letter of June 25th to this Convention, stating that candidates of both parties will be asked to take a stand individually and that prohibition is not a party issue.

Resolved that the candidates of the Liberal Conservative Party in the next provincial contest are at liberty to take an individual stand on the subject of prohibition and that this Convention is of opinion that as soon as a sufficient number of men in favor of prohibition are elected members of the Local Legislature, statutory enactment embodying the desires of the Temperance Alliance must follow.

XVII

HASTY AND SECRET LEGISLATION.

We denounce the evils of hasty and secret legislation and legislation which usurps the proper authority and powers of municipal, city and town councils, which the Legislature under Liberal rule is constantly passing; and we also declare against the growing practice of the influencing of legislation by professional lobbyists.

XVIII

LOCAL TAXATION.

The Liberal Governments while claiming to administer the affairs of the Province without resort to direct taxation, have not hesitated to resort to such taxation through the medium of the municipal governments.

Thorough investigation is required to see that the ratepayers of the Cities, Towns and County Municipalities are not burdened with taxation, which should be borne by the Province or by any class of the community which is alone benefitted by the particular object to which the funds raised are applied.

XIX

LITIGATION, OFFICIAL, FEES, Etc.

We believe that the time has arrived when the cost of litigation and the administration of estates of deceased persons should be investigated, and such relief afforded as will protect the people from burdensome exactions.

On the other hand, more adequate remuneration should be paid to persons attending Court as witnesses and jurors.

We declare that it is the duty of the Government, and particularly of the Attorney General's Department, to exercise strict supervision of the administration of criminal law by magistrates throughout the Province; and to compel returns from such magistrates and to make inspection of their work, and we further declare

that the Liberal Government's indiscriminate appointments of magistrates and other officers for political purposes, instead of for personal fitness, call for the strongest condemnation.

XX

INDEPENDENCE OF PARLIAMENT

We condemn the Government for their persistent neglect to enact legislation on the subject of independence of the legislature, and declare that the law should be amended so as to disqualify all persons who are officials of, and contractors with the Government, from being elected to the House of Assembly, or appointed to the Legislative Council or of holding seats in either House.

XXI

REPRESENTATION.

The present system of representation inaugurated half a century ago has become grossly unfair to large sections, which owing to increase of population are at present inequitably represented. When returned to power, we pledge ourselves to an equitable measure of redistribution, which will, without depriving any of the Counties of the representation which they at present enjoy, remedy this injustice.

XXII

REPRESENTATION AT OTTAWA

In view of the great development of the West and the standing still of the population of Nova Scotia, there is danger that after the decennial Dominion Census of 1911 Nova Scotia and the other Maritime Provinces will lose part of their representation at Ottawa. The Liberal Conservative party pledges itself to endeavor to secure an amendment to the British North America Act to prevent the Nova Scotia representation at Ottawa falling below the present number of eighteen.